



# OKLAHOMA IMAGINE THAT.

What it's really like to  
call Oklahoma **home.**



Where we love to hike.

**BLACK MESA STATE PARK**

Elevation: 5,705 Feet

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LIVEOKLAHOMA.COM



**OKLAHOMA**  
Commerce





# Oklahoma is where **everything's** going your way.



## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Wind isn't the only thing sweeping down the plains – get hyped about arts districts, professional sports and festivals.



## **GREAT OUTDOORS**

Oklahoma's diverse landscapes and cities will quench your thirst for adventure and outdoor recreation.



## **A GOOD LIFE**

Diverse housing options, low cost of living and access to vast recreational opportunities make Oklahoma an ideal place for living your best life.



## **OKLAHOMANS**

Hear about the Oklahoma life from people already living and working here.



The striking architecture of the Boathouse District in Oklahoma City hosts an official U.S. Olympic/Paralympic Training Site.

# What do you know about Oklahoma?

What first comes to mind when you think of Oklahoma? The sweeping melodies of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical? Covered wagons traversing prairies? Oil derricks sprouting from the plains like great black trees? The thundering applause at a professional basketball game?

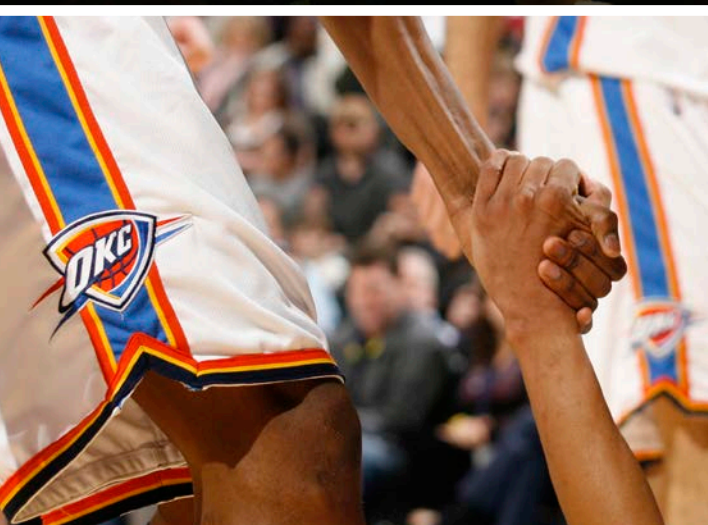
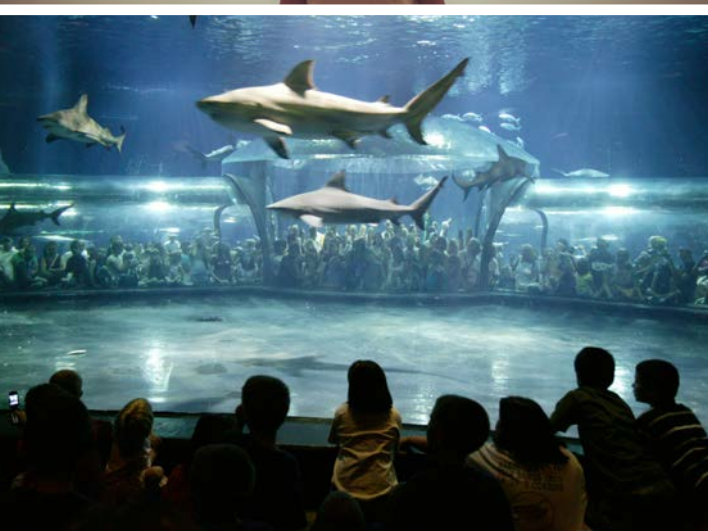
Although these images are representative of Oklahoma's past and present, there's much more to the Sooner State than sports and our pioneer history. Many are surprised by our diversity and modernity, and still more people are pleased to learn about the ample opportunities we offer newcomers. Here, you can live life to the fullest.

Oklahoma is a young state, and we've earned a reputation as an innovative, entrepreneurial place.

We've seen significant growth and change since the '90s: adding attractions and outdoor activities, reinvigorating cities and neighborhoods, even bringing in our first major professional sports team, the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Our two largest metros are growing – economically, culturally and socially – and they're surrounded by unique small towns with big personalities. Oklahomans in general are welcoming people – friendly, laid-back and good-natured – and we're famous for our hospitality. There's more to do here than you think, and with our low cost of living, you'll be able to enjoy to the fullest everything our state has to offer.







# A State of the Arts and So Much More



**300+  
MUSEUMS**

More than 300 museums to enjoy across the state



**ART  
HUB**

Burgeoning scene for murals and public art



**5-TIME  
NW DIVISION  
CHAMPIONS**

One of the NBA's most exciting teams



**TOP  
CONCERT  
VENUES**

Six renowned concert venues in Oklahoma City and Tulsa



**TOP  
NATIONAL  
FILM FEST**

Annual deadCENTER Film Festival is one of the top film festivals in the country



**50+  
CRAFT  
BREWERIES**

50+ craft breweries and growing, including internationally renowned Prairie Artisan Ales

## Oklahoma Has Everything, From Arts to Zoos

Oklahoma is home to a wide variety of entertainment and excitement, and our list of things to do just keeps growing.

There's much to celebrate in Oklahoma, with cultural events, spectator sports and festivals of all sorts taking place just about every weekend. Food and entertainment hubs – such as Oklahoma City's Midtown and Plaza District, and Tulsa's Blue Dome District – offer trendy restaurants, locally run shops, fine dining and more.

We're a hub for aspiring artists, with art shows, art festivals and live mural paintings a common occurrence. We also lay claim to deadCENTER, one of the top film

festivals in the country, which provides a unique focus on local filmmakers.

Our thriving arts districts are accompanied by architectural marvels, world-class theaters, a nationally renowned zoo, music venues big and small, more than 300 museums, and more than 50 craft breweries. The number of breweries in Oklahoma has more than doubled since microbrewing became popular, with some, such as Prairie Artisan Ales, receiving international attention and acclaim.

Oh, and did we mention we're home to one of the most exciting teams in the NBA, the Oklahoma City Thunder?



*After my wife and I visited Norman, she turned to me on the second day and said, 'You are taking this job. We have to move here!'*

– Berrien Moore III,  
Director, National  
Weather Center



The eclectic Tulsa Tough cycling festival has something for everyone.

## OKLAHOMA SPOTLIGHTS

### deadCENTER Film Festival

Since 2001, deadCENTER Film Festival in Oklahoma City has evolved into the premier film festival in the state. It's an international festival boasting more than 1,400 films, ranked as one of the "20 Coolest Film Festivals in the World" by MovieMaker magazine. It also gives local filmmakers a platform to showcase their work.

### Tulsa Tough

Tulsa Tough is a three-day cycling festival in downtown Tulsa. From extremely competitive races featuring some of the sport's top cyclists to casual, family-friendly races, the event has something for riders of every age and skill level. The festival also has a bit of a wild hair, offering a taste of Tulsa's free spirit and eclecticism.

### OK Mozart

This music festival brings internationally acclaimed classical musicians, as well as jazz, pops and Broadway artists, to Bartlesville for a multi-day event. The event also features fascinating lectures discussing history, architecture and culture; kid-friendly activities; and great food.



# Step out and step in to the great outdoors.



## **160+ MILES OF URBAN TRAILS**

More than 160 miles of multi-use trails in OKC and Tulsa



## **1,000s OF HIKING MILES**

Hiking trails crisscross Oklahoma's diverse regions



## **55,646 MILES OF SHORELINE**

More shoreline than the Atlantic and Gulf coasts combined



## **11 DISTINCT MOUNTAIN RANGES**

Home to the 1.4-billion-year-old Arbuckle Mountains



## **10+ ECOLOGICAL REGIONS**

Oklahoma offers the most diverse terrain per mile in U.S.



## **54-MILE SCENIC BYWAY**

The picturesque Talimena Drive takes you through the majestic Ouachita Mountains

### **Oklahoma: More Great Than Plain**

When our state is portrayed on the big screen, it often comes off a little flat. Oklahoma may be a Great Plains state, but our outdoor recreation is more great than plain.

Oklahoma hosts a surprising assortment of outdoor adventures. Whether you're looking for the perfect swimming hole, mountain hiking trails, city biking trails or the ideal spot for something more extreme, our state has the outdoor adventure for you.

Oklahoma features three distinct mountain ranges – the Wichita Mountains in the southwest, the Ozark Mountains in the northeast and the Ouachita Mountains in the

southeast. These ranges offer miles upon miles of hiking trails, scenic roads and recreational areas sure to satisfy even the most avid outdoorsman.

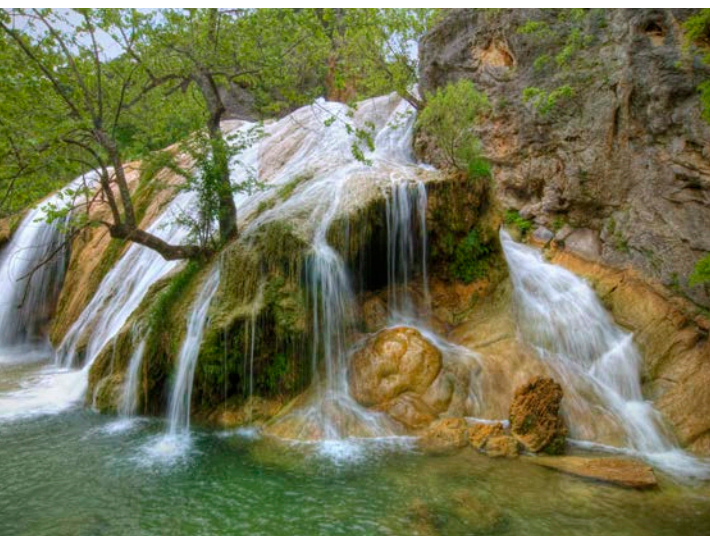
But if you're a city slicker who's itching for exercise or just wants a breath of fresh Oklahoma air, our metropolitan areas have you covered. Between Oklahoma City's lengthy bike trails and Tulsa's accommodating pedestrian walkways, there's plenty of places for you to get outside and escape the bustle of city life.



*You need to see it!  
You need to see the vibrancy. Oklahoma is a place where people develop roots and call home quickly.*

– Mike Ming,  
Retired VP - Executive  
Liaison, Baker Hughes,  
a GE Company







Where we love to escape.

## WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE

38 Minutes From Lawton

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### This land is your land.

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is one of Oklahoma's most unique destinations – a natural attraction a half-billion years in the making. Longhorn, elk, deer, cattle and bison are a common sight throughout the park's grasslands and mountains, and many climbers and hikers across the country consider the Wichitas a must.







Drive on 54 miles of scenic roads through the Ouachita Mountains of southeast Oklahoma.



O K L A H O M A   S P O T L I G H T S

Scenic Talimena Drive

Talimena National Scenic Byway is a 54-mile stretch of nationally protected road winds through the Ouachita Mountains and Ouachita National Forest of southeastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas, and it offers some of the best views this side of the Rockies. Although this scenic drive is worth the trip year-round, a fall drive offers the best viewing experience, when the region’s foliage lights up with bright reds, yellows and oranges.

Tahlequah Hills

Tahlequah, a hotspot for the outdoor enthusiast, is found in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains. From floating the Illinois River during the summer to hiking through Sparrow Hawk Mountain or camping at Lake Tenkiller in the fall, this paradise runs the gamut of outdoor recreation. Tahlequah is also known for its Red Fern Festival, inspired by the book “Where the Red Fern Grows” by Tahlequah-area-native Wilson Rawls.

Watonga Canyons

Watonga is home to an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. Roman Nose State Park is set in a vast canyon and offers a unique 18-hole golf course, swimming pools, hiking and two separate lakes with fishing, paddle boats and more. Additionally, the beautiful Red Rock Canyon Adventure Park, once a stop for pioneers on the California Trail, and popular Cherokee Trading Post are located just 30 minutes from Watonga.





# A Slice of the Good Life



## **\$162,409** **MEDIAN HOME PRICE**

Median price of Oklahoma homes was \$162,409 in 2021



## **LOW COST** **OF LIVING**

2nd-lowest cost of living in the U.S. in 2021



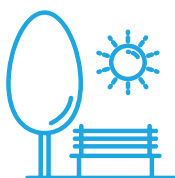
## **120+ BLUE** **RIBBON SCHOOLS**

Home to more than 120 prestigious Blue Ribbon schools since 1983



## **4 TOP U.S.** **PREPARATORY SCHOOLS**

Home to four of the nation's top college-preparatory schools



## **BEST CITY PARK** **IN THE US**

Gathering Place, a riverfront park in Tulsa Okla. was named Best City Park in 2021 by USA Today Readers Choice



## **4th IN THE U.S. FOR** **NUMBER OF FARMS**

An abundance of farms means fresh produce year-round

## **What makes a place a home?**

Is it a white picket fence? A big backyard? A house to call your own? Home can be all of those things. But most importantly, it's where your life happens. Where you pursue your passions. Where you enjoy a meal with friends or family or both.

In Oklahoma you can have it all – whatever all means to you. Great companies to work for, safe communities and a low cost of living make our state a smart place to start or continue your career. A vast landscape, central location and boundless recreation make Oklahoma a great jumping-off

point for adventures – whether that's in your own town, a two-hour drive away or via a quick flight. From amenities with activities, beautiful parks and thriving entertainment districts, here you've got a truly great place to live your life.

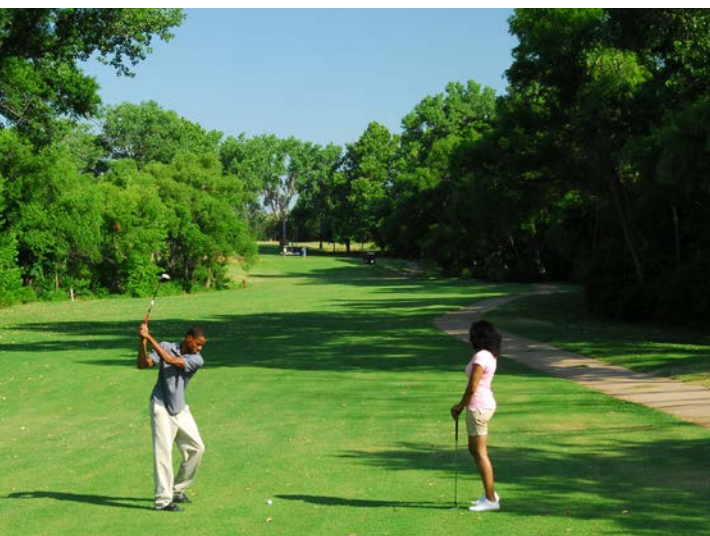
With a wide range of housing options – from a downtown apartment to an acreage to watch the beautiful Oklahoma sunsets, a historic home to the latest modern architecture – here you'll find a place to suit your tastes and lifestyle, at an affordable cost.



*Going to work, getting your kids to and from school, and still making it home for dinner is incredible. The short commute is important to us.*

– Michelle Robinson,  
President, SE Verizon Wireless







Where we love to play.

## GATHERING PLACE

Tulsa's Riverfront Park

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### A Park Like No Other.

The Gathering Place was voted USA Today's Best City Park in 2021, and Best New Attraction in 2019. This 66.5-acre park reflects the unique culture and spirit of Tulsa. A welcoming, natural space, the Gathering place is where people come together to explore, learn and play.







Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club, will host the 2022 PGA Championship and have hosted the PGA Championship five times, more than any other course.

OKLAHOMA SPOTLIGHTS

Historic Enid

Oklahoma's eighth-largest city is chock-full of activities for families on the go. Leonardo's Children's Museum and Adventure Quest feature a science playground and interactive educational exhibits for kids of all ages. The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, located on the former Chisholm Trail, is dedicated to educating visitors about the state's pioneer history. And the more-than-a-century old Government Springs Park features public art, trails and fishing.

Clinton's Route 66

Today, Clinton honors its heritage with the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, featuring exhibits, antique cars and a drive-in theater. Sandwiched between Weatherford and Elk City along I-40, Clinton is also home to an impressive indoor water park, offering year-round family fun. Clinton is only an hour's drive from Oklahoma City, offering a great balance between small-town life and big-city access.

Southern Hills Tulsa

Consistently ranked as one of the top 100 golf courses in the world, Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club in is quite literally a major destination. The course has been selected to host the PGA Championship more than any other (1970, 1982, 1994, 2007 and 2022), not to mention hosting the U.S. Open three times. Set in the lush greenery of north-east Oklahoma, Southern Hills showcases some of the state's best urban views and is only 15 minutes from downtown Tulsa.











# OKLAHOMANS

SEE OKLAHOMA THROUGH  
THE EYES OF OKLAHOMANS







# SCOTT BOOKER

MANAGER, THE FLAMING LIPS

## Finding Interesting Artists in an Unexpected Place

A band like the Flaming Lips is more evocative of a psychedelic, faraway planet than middle America. But thanks to the work of Scott Booker, the Flaming Lips' manager, finding interesting artists in an unexpected place – such as Oklahoma – isn't that surprising anymore.

From his first job working in a Midwest City record store to managing a Grammy Award-winning band and founding a music school, Booker has carved out a long, fruitful career in the music industry. He's proven that with passion, hard work and a little business savvy, one can make a living in the arts. And he's done it all without leaving Oklahoma.

Booker graduated with a degree in education from the University

of Central Oklahoma (then Central State University) in Edmond, but he put his diploma on the shelf when he began managing the Flaming Lips in 1990. Still, education and making his home a better place have long been important to Scott, and those two passions led him in 2009 to found UCO's Academy of Contemporary Music, a school for students interested in learning the ins and outs of the music industry – from performance to production and business – without uprooting their lives.

The school includes a professional recording studio and a venue that attracts big-name acts, such as Jackson Browne and Ben Folds. But Booker has created an environment where Oklahoma's best local artists can hone their

skills: He's helped cultivate a cultural renaissance unlike anything the state has seen.



*The reality is I've never thought of leaving. I mean, this is my home. It's where my family lives. That's important to me. But more importantly, I see great opportunity here.*

– Scott Booker, Manager,  
The Flaming Lips





# SONIA LEE

AVP, CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT,  
AMERICAN FIDELITY

## Adventurous Family Embraces Oklahoma Culture

Sonia Lee is privy to some of Oklahoma's top outdoor destinations.

The AVP, Customer Engagement, for American Fidelity is an Oklahoma native from the tree-speckled prairie of Newalla. Although she now lives in Edmond with her husband and two children, she's still a country girl at heart. During her downtime, if she and her family aren't hiking or camping at Arcadia Lake or Lake Tenkiller, they're attending one of the state's many outdoor music festivals.

"I think that Oklahoma really offers a lot of what you look for in other places," Lee said. "We've got fantastic, pretty rivers. We've got big, large hills – if you don't want to call them mountains. We've got a lot of things to do."

Luckily for Lee, moving to the city didn't mean sacrificing her love for the outdoors. Nearby enclaves of nature and country culture, such as Oklahoma City's Martin Park Nature Center, offer a respite from fast-paced city life. One such enclave, the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival in Guthrie, is a Lee-family favorite.

"Everybody brings their instruments," she said. "It doesn't matter if they're good or bad – they're all playing. And people walk around with their instruments and join in groups all of the time."



*So it's not only the live shows and the tent appearances, but it's also those people generally loving music and playing it. Anybody's welcome anytime.*

– Sonia Lee, AVP, Customer Engagement, American Fidelity





# JOAN DIMATTEO-HUNT

SENIOR MANAGER OF WHOLESALE BILLING, VERIZON

## A New Jersey Family Adapts to the Oklahoma Life

Tulsa, Oklahoma, might seem like a world away from New York City, but to Joan DiMatteo-Hunt, who grew up in Brooklyn and lived in New Jersey for most of her life, there are more similarities than differences.

"It reminds me of New York City on a smaller scale," she said. "Here, there's a lot of up-and-coming activities and opportunities that I didn't really realize [until I got here]."

Joan DiMatteo-Hunt, the senior manager of wholesale billing at Verizon, relocated to Oklahoma for work, bringing her husband, two daughters and father-in-law along with her. She now lives in a Tulsa suburb, where her daughters participate in dance and varsity tennis. The Sooner State has received rave reviews all around.

"We really adapted well," she said. "It's wonderful because everything is available and convenient."

She's also a big fan of Oklahoma's lower cost of living, more affordable real estate, excellent public schools and, of course, the people.

"I think the people here are very friendly," she said. "The people here go the extra mile. That's what makes Oklahoma special."

She said she was a little unsure of what to expect when she first arrived, but soon realized the state has a lot to offer, from the mild winters to the laid-back lifestyle of middle America. Now, she's experiencing a renewed lifestyle and loving every minute of it.



*If you want to live easier, just enjoy things a little bit more and experience things a little more, [come to Oklahoma].*

– Joan DiMatteo-Hunt,  
Senior Manager of  
Wholesale Billing,  
Verizon





# SAM MCNEAL

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ANALYST,  
OKLAHOMA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## Atlanta Native Finds Oklahoma City Surprisingly Cosmopolitan

Like many big-city expatriates, Sam McNeal discovered OKC has just about everything you'd expect from a metropolitan area, with the added benefit of a down-home, folksy feel and a few surprises to boot.

"I was surprised by how cosmopolitan Oklahoma City is," McNeal said. "It's a modern city, and at the same time, it's a more small-town feel [than other big cities]."

McNeal moved to Oklahoma City from Atlanta in February 2016 to become the intellectual property analyst at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Since then, he moved into the Metropolitan in Deep Deuce, enjoyed cruising through the neon glow of Automobile Alley and stumbled upon one of the city's best-kept secrets: Super Cao Nguyen, a market in the

Asian District.

"[When I went to graduate school in Philadelphia], they had a Chinatown, but they didn't have a big supermarket with everything under one roof," he said. "That was kind of new to me. You can get anything from that place."

McNeal also is a big sports fan, and between the Sooners, Cowboys and Thunder, he's been able to get his fix.

"It's pretty cool when you watch the Thunder games and you see the blue sections and the white sections, and everybody comes out and is supportive, versus the Atlanta Hawks games, where people show up late or not at all," he said.

There are many practical benefits to living in Oklahoma City, too. McNeal has found his dollar goes farther here, and little traffic and short commutes make getting around quick and easy.



*My dollar goes farther here. It's cheaper to live here and do things. You will save money and time.*

— Sam McNeal,  
Oklahoma Medical  
Research Foundation



Where we love to be.  
**OKLAHOMA SUNSETS**  
Anywhere in Oklahoma

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Enjoy one of Oklahoma's renowned sunsets, shown here at Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City.



*We have had so much talent come out of our state. When I think about Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Carrie Underwood – and that’s just the country music – and Tony Randall, and other actors and musicians like Leon Russell ... We have a lot to be proud of. It’s not just about the red dirt. It’s about the people that came from it.*

*– Kristin Chenoweth, Actress and Singer*

## OKLAHOMA Imagine That.

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Learn more:  
[LIVEOKLAHOMA.COM](https://www.liveoklahoma.com)



OKLAHOMA: **IMAGINE THAT**

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We're waiting  
for **you.**

[LIVEOKLAHOMA.COM](http://LIVEOKLAHOMA.COM)



**OKLAHOMA**

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